ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

DEC 9 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
(ATTN: SERVICE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES)
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Inspector General's Concerns on Government Source Inspection

The Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General has expressed concern in two areas in the report on Government Source Inspection. The first area relates to confusion over the definition of item criticality. The joint Service/Agency "Engineering Support Instruction for Items Supplied by the Defense Logistics Agency" (DLAI 3200.1, AR 715.13, NAVSUPINST 4120.30A, AFI 21-408, and MCO 4000.18) defines a critical item as one "that is essential to weapon system performance or operation, or the preservation of life or safety of operating personnel." This instruction has been adopted as a joint instruction and should be used by all Military Departments and Defense Agencies.

The second area of concern centers on the lack of communication among the Department's procurement activities, engineering support activities, and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). The report found that procuring activities often failed to respond to DCMA submissions of the DD Form 1716, "Contract Data Action Recommendation/Deficiency Report." The form is intended as a tool to open the lines of communication regarding contract or contract administration requirements. I am seeking your assistance in ensuring that responses to DD Forms 1716 are provided in a timely manner.

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My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Merrill Yee. He can be reached at (703) 695-2300.

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